

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 00441 100306Z
ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 0441
DEPT FOR EA ONLY

FOR GLEYSTEN FROM OAKLEY

SINGAPORE FOR DEPUTY ASST SEC OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, HK, TW, VM
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

1. AT COM CONFERENCE, DICK HOLBROOKE, PATT DERIAN AND
LEN UNGER AGREED THAT WE SHOULD MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO GET
THE ROC TO ACCEPT FOR PERMENT RESETTLEMENT SEVERAL
THOUSAND BOAT CASE REFUGEES OF CHINESE ETHNIC ORIGIN, IR-
RESPECTIVE OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE ANY PRIOR CONNECTION
TO TAIWAN.

2. DICK WOULD LIKE THE ROC DESK TO WORK WITH FRANK BENNETT
AND HA IN DEVELOPING THE SPECIFIC ARGUMENTS, AND THE GENERAL
INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAIPEI TO IMPLEMENT THIS COM CONFERENCE
DECISION. OUR APPROACH TO THE ROC SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THE
HEAVILY CHINESE COMPOSITION OF THE REFUGEE FLOW AND
COMPARE TAIWAN'S INADEQUATE PERFORMANCE ON REFUGEES
WITH THE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE OF AUSTRALIA, CANADA,
FRANCE AND THE U.S. WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO COUNTER
THE ROC'S ARGUMENT OF POPULATION AND ECONOMIC PRES-
SURES BY CITING THE NUMBER OF CHINESE EMIGRES FROM TAIWAN
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WHO ANNUALLY RESETTLE IN THE U.S. (BELIEVED TO
APPROACH 20,000). WE SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO
DISMISS ANY ROC CONCERNS ON SECURITY GROUNDS BY
EXPRESSING DISBELIF THAT THIS COULD BE A SERIOUS
PROBLEM GIVEN THE STRONG DISTASTE FOR
COMMUNISM WHICH MOTIVATES THESE REFUGEES TO RISK
THEIR LIVES TO SEEK HAVEN.

4. DICK, PATT, MIKE MANSFIELD AND JACK SULLIVAN
ALSO AGREED THAT JAPAN SHOULD BE ASKED IN UPCOMING
AID TALKS TO MAKE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE AN ADDITIONAL
\$10 MILLION SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNHCR FOR
BOAT CASE REFUGEES. THIS COULD BE USED TO DEFRAY
COSTS SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION TO RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES
(INCLUDING U.S.), PROPOSED SINGAPORE TRANSIT CENTER,
ETC. EA SHOULD WORK WITH HA TO DEVELOP BEST ARGUEMENTS
FOR AID TEAM TO USE WITH JAPANESE.
SHOESMITH

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